

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Stephen Monroe Tomczak, Ph.D. and I live in Wallingford, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days.

I am thankful that Governor Lamont is in agreement that we should expand our current Paid Sick Leave Law and I believe that everyone deserves paid sick days as a basic human right. Therefore it is imperative that we follow the demands outlined in this bill that allow us all to have access regardless of the place of employment. All workers should regardless of employer size or industry. I also think its is important that we have an expansive definition of family that takes into account the diversity of experience of Connecticut residents.

While I have not personally struggled with the lack of sick days recently, I most certainly have when younger, and as I teach students who often work multiple service sector jobs to pay for their university educations, I regularly hear stories about how the lack of these benefits creates problems for them in their lives. Additionally, I am grateful to have paid sick days. We all know that professions that are in regular contact with large groups of people are more likely to bring home illnesses; I am able to show up to work every day and show up for my students because I can stay home and protect them when I'm sick.

Thank you for your time,
Stephen Monroe Tomczak, Ph.D. Wallingford, CT